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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/621,524	07/18/2003	Mong Ju Han	0630-1792P	1169

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EXAMINER	
LAZARO, DAVID R	
ART UNIT	**PAPER NUMBER**
2155	

NOTIFICATION DATE	DELIVERY MODE
08/06/2007	ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

mailroom@bskb.com

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/621,524	HAN, MONG JU	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	David Lazaro	2155	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *18 July 2003*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-26* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-26* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on *18 July 2003* is/are: a)☒ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☒ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date *7/18/03*.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-26 are pending in this office action.

Priority

2. This application is a continuation of 09/129092 (filed 08/05/1998) and claims priority to Korea 38046/1997 (filing date 08/09/1997).

3. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Information Disclosure Statement

4. The IDS submitted 07/18/2003 has been considered by the examiner.

Drawings

5. The examiner accepts the drawings filed 07/18/2003.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

6. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

7. Claims 1-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,632,002 by Hashimoto et al. (Hashimoto).

8. With respect to claim 1, Hashimoto teaches an apparatus for converting an e-mail (electronic mail) data into an audio data, comprising:

a communication connector connected with a communication line to control a transmission of an e-mail data and an e-mail audio data (Col. 52 lines 24-28: electronic mail processing unit);

a controller to control receiving and sending e-mail data pertaining to an e- mail through the communication connector (Col. 52 lines 24-29: electronic mail processing unit), and controlling a conversion from the received e-mail data into e-mail message data (Col. 49 lines 42-64: conversion of email data into speech data and other appropriate data), the e-mail message data containing gender information pertaining to a sender, contents and texts of the e-mail (Col. 49 lines 42 - Col. 50 line 31: text, contents and gender information);

a memory to store the e-mail data and the e-mail message data (Col. 49 lines 42-64: conversion of data would require memory in some form); and

an audio data generator to generate an audio signal according to the e-mail message data (Col. 49 lines 42-64: system reads out speech data) and to transmit the contents and texts of the e-mail message data to a client through the communication connector upon client request (Col. 51 lines 60-63 and Col. 55 lines 38-60: user request for accessing email data),

wherein an audio message data stored in the memory is attached in the e- mail message data and reproduced audibly by the audio data generator, the audio message data pertaining to certain data which is not reproduced by the audio data generator (Col. 54 lines 7-21: summary message is generated by the speech system, summary pertains to a longer message which is not read out).

9. With respect to claim 2, Hashimoto further teaches further comprising an e-mail client program installed system (Col. 47 lines 17-33).

10. With respect to claim 3, Hashimoto further teaches a video unit for processing the e-mail message data; and a display unit for displaying the e-mail message data processed by the video unit (Col. 47 lines 17-33).

11. With respect to claim 4, Hashimoto further teaches wherein the e-mail message data further contains header information of the e-mail and a message from the sender (Col. 49 lines 50-63).

12. With respect to claim 5, Hashimoto further teaches wherein the header information identifies the sender's name, a sending data and a subject of the e-mail (Col. 49 lines 50-63).

13. With respect to claim 6, Hashimoto further teaches wherein the e-mail message data further identifies a total number of e-mails received by the apparatus for the client (Col. 51 lines 40-49).

14. With respect to claim 7, Hashimoto further teaches wherein the audio data generator generates the audio signal in a male voice that is not the sender's if the gender information identifies that the sender of the e-mail is a male, and generates the audio signal in a female voice that is not the sender's if the gender information identifies that the sender of the e-mail is a female (Col. 49 line 64 - Col. 50 line 8).

15. With respect to claim 8, Hashimoto further teaches wherein the male voice is also not of a receiver of the e-mail, and the female voice is also not of a receiver of the e-mail (Col. 49 line 64 - Col. 50 line 8: voices are synthesized voices).

16. With respect to claim 9, Hashimoto teaches a method for converting an e-mail data into an audio data, comprising the steps of:

storing an e-mail when the e-mail is received (Col. 51 lines 40-63: speech mail tool stores received e-mail and allows user to decide when to read the received mail);

converting the received e-mail into e-mail message data and storing the e-mail message data (Col. 49 lines 42-64: conversion of email data into speech data and other appropriate data), the e-mail message data containing gender information pertaining to

a sender, contents and texts of the e-mail (Col. 49 lines 42 - Col. 50 line 31: text, contents and gender information);

identifying a client's identification when a client requests an e-mail (Col. 55 lines 38-50: user verification based on some identification technique);

converting the e-mail message data to audio data (Col. 49 lines 42-64: conversion of email data into speech data); and

transmitting the contents and texts of the e-mail message data to the client as an audio signal (Col. 49 lines 42-64: system reads out speech data to user),

wherein an audio message data stored in a memory is attached in the e-mail message data and reproduced audibly as part of the audio signal, the audio message data pertaining to certain data which is not audibly reproduced (Col. 54 lines 7-21: summary message is generated by the speech system, summary pertains to a longer message which is not read out).

17. With respect to claim 10, Hashimoto further teaches wherein in said audio converting and storing steps, identification information of the sender of the e-mail is checked and an audio conversion is implemented based on the checked result (Col. 49 line 63 - Col. 50 line 8).

18. With respect to claim 11, Hashimoto further teaches wherein the identifying step includes a step of judging whether there is an e-mail received after the client's identification has been identified (Col. 55 lines 38-50: user is verified before access is allowed).

19. With respect to claim 12, Hashimoto further teaches a step for transmitting a message indicating that the email is not received when the e-mail is not received (Col. 51 lines 40-49: system informs user of the number of emails received, which would include none).

20. With respect to claim 13, Hashimoto further teaches a step for referencing the sender of the e-mail in an address list (Col. 49 line 63 - Col. 50 line 8).

21. With respect to claim 14, Hashimoto further teaches wherein said identifying step is implemented using a telephone line or using a direct access to an e-mail service system (Col. 55 line 15-50).

22. With respect to claim 15, Hashimoto further teaches wherein said audio signal is generated based on the gender of the sender of the e-mail (Col. 49 line 63 - Col. 50 line 8).

23. With respect to claim 16, Hashimoto further teaches wherein said audio signal is generated in a male voice that is not the sender's if the gender information identifies that the sender of the e-mail is a male, and said audio signal is generated in a female voice that is not the sender's if the gender information identifies that the sender of the e-mail is a female (Col. 49 line 64 - Col. 50 line 8).

24. With respect to claim 17, Hashimoto further teaches wherein the male voice is also not of a receiver of the e-mail, and the female voice is also not of a receiver of the e-mail (Col. 49 line 64 - Col. 50 line 8: voices are synthesized voices).

25. With respect to claim 18, Hashimoto further teaches wherein, in the step of converting the received e- mail into the e-mail message data, the e-mail message data

further contains header information of the e-mail and a message from the sender (Col. 49 line 64 - Col. 50 line 8: voices are synthesized voices).

26. With respect to claim 19, Hashimoto further teaches in the step of converting the received e- mail into the e-mail message data, the header information identifies the name of the sender, a sending date, and a subject of the e-mail (Col. 49 lines 50-63).

27. With respect to claim 20, Hashimoto further teaches wherein the e-mail message data further identifies a total number of e-mails directed to the client (Col. 51 lines 40-49).

28. With respect to claim 21, Hashimoto a method of converting e-mail data into audio data, comprising:

detecting, from a user, a request to access an e-mail stored in a server (Col. 51 lines 60-63 and Col. 55 lines 38-60: user request for accessing email data);

verifying contents of said server upon detecting the user request (Col. 55 lines 15-60);

converting at least a portion of the e-mail into audio data (Col. 49 lines 42-64: system reads out speech data); and

conveying the converted audio data to the user by simulating a voice indicating a gender of a sender of the e-mail (Col. 49 lines 42 - Col. 50 line 8: system reads out speech data in a voice of the gender of the sender),

wherein said verifying is performed without going through an intermediary between said server and said user (Col. 55 lines 15-60: direct telephone access without intermediary),

wherein said portion of the e-mail is a header portion of the e-mail, a body of the e-mail includes texts, and the texts are converted into standard code format (Col. 49 lines 50-63: text, contents and header), and

wherein an audio message data stored in a memory is audibly reproduced during the conveying step, the audio message data pertaining to certain data which is not audibly reproduced (Col. 54 lines 7-21: summary message is generated by the speech system, summary pertains to a longer message which is not read out).

29. With respect to claim 22, Hashimoto further teaches wherein said e-mail header portion contains information indentifying the sender's name, a sending date and a subject of the e-mail (Col. 49 lines 50-63).

30. With respect to claim 23, Hashimoto further teaches werein said e-mail is in ASCII format (Col. 49 lines 50-63: text includes ASCII text).

31. With respect to claim 24, Hashimoto further teaches wherein said intermediary is an electronic mail client program (Col. 55 lines 15-60: direct telephone access without intermediary such as email client program).

32. With respect to claim 25, Hashimoto further teaches, wherein, in the conveying step, the voice is not of the sender of the e-mail (Col. 49 line 64 - Col. 50 line 8: voices are synthesized voices).

33. With respect to claim 26, Hashimoto further teaches wherein the voice is not of a receiver of the e-mail (Col. 49 line 64 - Col. 50 line 8: voices are synthesized voices).

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to David Lazaro whose telephone number is 571-272-3986. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30-5:00 M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Saleh Najjar can be reached on 571-272-4006. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

David Lazaro
August 1, 2007